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F A B L E S

DESIGNED

FOR THE INSTRUCTION

A N D

ENTERTAINMENT OF YOUTH;

By R. DODSLEY.

..... Is not the earth
With various living creatures, and the air
Replenished, and all those at thy command
To come and play before thee? Knowest thou not
Their language and their ways? They also know,
And reason not contemptibly: with these
Find pastime. Paradise Lost, b. 8. l. 370.

A new Edition carefully corrected.

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The eighth year of the French Republic.

1800

6

TABLES

DESIGNED

FOR THE INSTRUCTION

OF

YOUTH

BY H. DODD



T H E
P R E F A C E.

*F*ABLES have always been esteemed the best lessons for youth, as being well adapted to convey the most useful maxims, in a very agreeable manner. Accordingly, many writers, both in verse and prose, have presented the public with fables of different kinds. It would ill become the Author of this work to animadvert upon their labours: but he thinks it may be said with truth, and he hopes with modesty, that nothing of this kind, which has been published in prose, can justly discourage him from the present undertaking.

In forming this small collection his principal aim was to select such Fables as would make the strongest and most useful impressions on the minds of youth; and then to offer them in such unaffected language as might have some tendency to improve their style. If in this he should be allowed to have at all succeeded; the work, it is presumed, will not be unserviceable to young readers, nor wholly unentertaining to persons of maturer judgment.

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(Ces Dialogues publiés à Londres en français et en anglais, par *L. Chambaud*, ont eu jusqu'à huit éditions: c'est d'après la dernière édition de Londres, qu'on a fait celle-ci, en y ajoutant la traduction italienne.)

F A B L E S

DESIGNED

FOR THE INSTRUCTION
AND ENTERTAINMENT
OF YOUTH.

F A B L E I.

The Red-breast and the Sparrow.

AS a Red-breast was singing on a tree by the side of a rural cottage, a Sparrow perched upon the thatch, took occasion thus to reprimand him : and dost thou, said he, with thy dull autumnal note, presume to emulate the Birds of Spring? Can thy weak warblings pretend to vie with the sprightly accents of the Thrush and the Blackbird? with the va-

A

rious melody of the Lark or the Nightingale? whom other birds, far thy superiors, have been long content to admire in silence. Judge with candour at least, replied the Robin, nor impute those efforts to ambition solely, which may sometimes flow from Love of the Art. I reverence indeed, but by no means envy the birds whose fame has stood the test of ages. Their songs have charmed both hill and dale; but their season is past, and their throats are silent. I feel not, however, the ambition to surpass or equal them: my efforts are of a much humbler nature; and I may surely hope for pardon, while I endeavour to cheer these forsaken valleys, by an attempt to imitate the strains I love.

F A B L E II.*The two Bees.*

ON a fine morning in May, two Bees set forward in quest of Honey; the one wise and temperate, the other careless and extravagant. They soon arrived at a garden enriched with aromatic herbs, the most fragrant flowers, and the most delicious fruits. They regaled themselves for a time on the various dainties that were spread before them: the one loading his thigh at intervals with provisions for the hive against the distant winter; the other, reveling in sweets without regard to any thing but his present gratification. At length they found a wide-mouthed phial, that hung

beneath the bough of a peach-tree, filled with Honey ready tempered, and exposed to their taste in the most alluring manner. The thoughtless Epicure, spite of all his friend's remonstrances, plunged headlong into the vessel, resolving to indulge himself in all the pleasures of sensuality. The Philosopher, on the other hand, sipped a little with caution, but being suspicious of danger, flew off to fruits and flowers; where, by the moderation of his meals, he improved his relish for the true enjoyment of them. In the evening, however, he called upon his friend, to enquire whether he would return to the hive; but found him surfeited in sweets, which he was as unable to leave as to enjoy. Clogged in his wings, enfeebled in his feet, and his whole frame

totally enervated , he was but just able to bid his friend adieu , and to lament with his latest breath , that though a taste of pleasure might quicken the relish of life , an unrestrained indulgence is inevitable destruction.

F A B L E I I I .

The Diamond and the Glow-worm.

A DIAMOND happened to fall from the solitaire of a young lady , as she was walking one evening on a terrace in the garden. A Glow-worm , who had beheld it sparkle in its descent , as soon as the gloom of night had eclipsed its lustre , began to mock and to insult it. Art thou that wonderful thing , that vauntest of thy prodigious brightness ? Where now is

all thy boasted brilliancy? Alas, in evil hour has fortune thrown thee within the reach of my superior blaze. Conceited insect, replied the Gem, that owest thy feeble glimmer to the darkness that surrounds thee: know, my lustre bears the test of day, and even derives its chief advantage from that distinguishing light, which discovers thee to be no more than a dark and paltry Worm.

F A B L E IV.

The Ostrich and the Pelican.

THE Ostrich one day met the Pelican, and observing her breast all bloody, Good God! says she to her, what is the matter? What accident has befallen you? You certainly have been seized by some

savage beast of prey, and have with difficulty escaped from his merciless claws. Do not be surprised, friend, replied the Pelican; no such accident, nor indeed any thing more than common, hath happened to me. I have only been engaged in my ordinary employment of tending my nest, of feeding my dear little ones, and nourishing them with the vital blood from my bosom. Your answer, returned the Ostrich, astonishes me still more than the horrid figure you make. What! is this your practice, to tear your own flesh, to spill your own blood, and to sacrifice yourself in this cruel manner to the importunate cravings of your young ones? I know not which to pity most, your misery, or your folly. Be advised by me; have

some regard for yourself; and leave off this barbarous custom of mangling your own body: as for your children, commit them to the care of Providence, and make yourself quite easy about them. My example may be of use to you: I lay my eggs upon the ground, and just cover them lightly over with sand: if they have the good luck to escape being crushed by the tread of Man or Beast, the warmth of the Sun broods upon, and hatches them; and in due time my young ones come forth. I leave them to be nursed by Nature, and fostered by the elements; I give myself no trouble about them, and I neither know nor care what becomes of them. Unhappy wretch, says the Pelican, who art hardened against thy offspring, and through want of natural af-

fection renderest thy travail fruitless to thyself ! who knowest not the sweets of a parent's anxiety, the tender delight of a mother's sufferings ! It is not I , but thou that art cruel to thy own flesh. Thy insensibility may exempt thee from a temporary inconvenience, and an inconsiderable pain ; but at the same time it makes thee inattentive to a most necessary duty , and incapable of relishing the pleasure that attends it : a pleasure , the most exquisite that Nature hath indulged to us ; in which pain itself is swallowed up and lost, or only serves to heighten the enjoyment.

F A B L E V.*The Hounds in Couples.*

A HUNTSMAN was leading forth his Hounds one morning to the chace, and had linked several of the young Dogs in couples, to prevent their following every scent, and hunting disorderly, as their own inclinations and fancy should direct them. Among others, it was the fate of Jowler and Vixen to be thus yoked together. Jowler and Vixen were both young and unexperienced; but had for some time been constant companions, and seemed to have entertained a great fondness for each other; they used to be perpetually playing together, and in any quarrel that happened, always

took one another's part ; it might have been expected therefore , that it would not be disagreeable to them to be still more closely united. However, in fact, it proved otherwise : they had not been long joined together before both parties were observed to express uneasiness at their present situation. Different inclinations and opposite wills began to discover and to exert themselves : if one chose to go this way , the other was as eager to take the contrary ; if one was pressing forward , the other was sure to lag behind ; Vixen pulled back Jowler , and Jowler dragged along Vixen : Jowler growled at Vixen , and Vixen snapped at Jowler : till at last it came to a downright quarrel between them ; and Jowler treated Vixen in a very rough and unge-

nerous manner , without any regard to the inferiority of her strength , or the tenderness of her sex. As they were thus continually vexing and tormenting one another, an old Hound, who had observed all that passed , came up to them , and thus reproved them :
« What a couple of silly puppies you are , to be perpetually worrying yourselves at this rate ! What hinders your going on peaceably and quietly together ? Cannot you compromise the matter between you by each consulting the other's inclination a little ? at least , try to make a virtue of necessity , and submit to what you cannot remedy : you cannot get rid of the chain , but you may make it sit easy upon you. I am an old Dog , and let my age and experience instruct you : when I
was

was in the same circumstances with you , I soon found , that thwarting my companion was only tormenting myself ; and my yoke-fellow happily came into the same way of thinking. We endeavoured to join in the same pursuits , and to follow one another's inclinations ; and so we jogged on together , not only with ease and quiet , but with comfort and pleasure. We found by experience , that mutual compliance not only compensates for liberty , but is even attended with a satisfaction and delight , beyond what liberty itself can give ».

F A B L E V I.

The Miser and the Magpye.

AS a Miser sat at his desk, counting over his heaps of gold, a Magpye, eloped from his cage, picked up a guinea, and hopped away with it. The Miser, who never failed to count his money over a second time, immediately missed the piece, and rising up from his seat in the utmost consternation, observed the felon hiding it in a crevice of the floor. And art thou, cried he, that worst of thieves, who hast robbed me of my gold, without the plea of necessity, and without regard to its proper use? but thy life shall atone for so preposterous a villainy. Soft words, good master,

quoth the Magpye. Have I then injured you in any other sense than you defraud the public? and am I not using your money in the same manner you do yourself? If I must lose my life for hiding a single guinea, what do you, I pray, deserve, who secrete so many thousands?

F A B L E VII.

The Sensitive-Plant and the Thistle.

A THISTLE happened to spring up very near to a Sensitive-Plant. The former observing the extreme bashfulness and delicacy of the latter, addressed her in the following manner. Why are you so modest and reserved, my good neighbour, as to withdraw your

leaves at the approach of strangers? Why do you shrink as if you were afraid, from the touch of every hand? Take example and advice from me: If I liked not their familiarity, I would make them keep their distance, nor should any saucy finger provoke me unrevenged. Our tempers and qualities, replied the other, are widely different: I have neither the ability nor inclination to give offence: you, it seems, are by no means destitute of either. My desire is to live peaceably in the station wherein I was placed: and tho' my humility may now and then cause me a moment's uneasiness, it tends on the whole to preserve my tranquillity. The case is otherwise with you, whose irritable temper, and revengeful disposition, will probably, one

time or other, be the cause of your destruction. While they were thus arguing the point, the Gardener came with his little spaddle, in order to lighten the earth round the stem of the Sensitive-Plant; but perceiving the Thistle, he thrusts his instrument thro' the root of it, and tossed it out of his garden.

F A B L E V I I I.

Pythagoras and the Critic.

PYTHAGORAS was one day very earnestly engaged in taking an exact measure of the length of the Olympic course. One of those conceited Critics who aim at every thing, and are ready to interpose with their opinion upon all subjects, happened to be present;

and could not help smiling to himself to see the Philosopher so employed, and to observe what great attention and pains he bestowed upon such a business. And pray, says he, accosting Pythagoras, may I presume to ask with what design you have given yourself this trouble? Of that, replied the Philosopher, I shall very readily inform you. We are assured, that Hercules, when he instituted the Olympic games, himself laid out this course by measure, and determined it to the length of six hundred feet, measuring it by the standard of his own foot. Now by taking an exact measure of this space; and seeing how much it exceeds the measure of the same number of feet now in use, we can find how much the foot of Hercules, and in proportion

his whole stature, exceeded that of the present generation. A very curious speculation, says the Critic, and of great use and importance, no doubt! And so you will demonstrate to us, that the bulk of this fabulous Hero was equal to his extravagant enterprises and his marvellous exploits. And pray, Sir, what may be the result of your enquiry at last? I suppose, you can now tell me exactly to a hair's breadth, how tall Hercules was. The result of my enquiry, replied the Philosopher, is this; and it is a conclusion of greater use and importance than you seem to expect from it; that if you will always estimate the labours of the Philosopher, the designs of the Patriot, and the actions of the Hero, by the standard of your

own narrow conceptions, you will ever be greatly mistaken in your judgment concerning them.

F A B L E I X.

The Bear.

A BEAR, who was bred in the savage desarts of Siberia, had an inclination to see the world. He travelled from forest to forest, and from one kingdom to another, making many profound observations in his way. Among the rest of his excursions, he came by accident into a farmer's yard, where he saw a number of poultry standing to drink by the side of a pool. Observing that at every sip they turned up their heads towards the sky, he could not forbear enquiring the reason of

so peculiar a ceremony. They told him, that it was by way of returning thanks to Heaven for the benefits they received; and was indeed an ancient and religious custom, which they could not, with a safe conscience, or without impiety, omit. Here the Bear burst into a fit of laughter, at once mimicking their gestures, and ridiculing their superstition, in the most contemptuous manner. On this, the Cock, with a spirit suitable to the boldness of his character, addressed him in the following words: As you are a stranger, Sir, you perhaps may be excused the indecency of this behaviour; yet give me leave to tell you, that none but a Bear would ridicule any religious ceremonies whatsoever, in the presence of those who believe them of importance.

F A B L E X.*The Stork and the Crow.*

A Stork and a Crow had once a strong contention, which of them stood highest in the favour of Jupiter. The Crow alledged his skill in omens, his infallibility in prophecies, and his great use to the priests of that deity in all their sacrifices and religious ceremonies. The Stork urged only his blameless life, the care he took to preserve his offspring, and the assistance he lent his parents under the infirmities of age. It happened, as it generally does in religious disputes, that neither of them could confute the other; so they both agreed to refer the decision to Jupiter himself. On

their joint application, the God determined thus between them: Let none of my creatures despair of my regard; I know their weakness; I pity their errors; and whatever is well meant, I accept as it was intended. Yet sacrifices or ceremonies are in themselves of no importance, and every attempt to penetrate the counsels of the Gods is altogether as vain as it is presumptuous: but he who pays to Jupiter a just honour and reverence, who leads the most temperate life, and who does the most good in proportion to his abilities, as he best answers the end of his creation, will assuredly stand highest in the favour of his Creator.

F A B L E X I.*Echo and the Owl.*

TH E vain hear the flatteries of their own imagination, and fancy them to be the voice of fame.

A solemn Owl, puffed up with vanity, sate repeating her screams at midnight, from the hollow of a blasted oak. And whence, cried she, proceeds this awful silence, unless it be to favour my superior melody? Surely the groves are husht in expectation of my voice, and when I sing, all Nature listens. An Echo resounding from an adjacent rock, replied immediately, « all Nature listens ». The Nightingale, resumed she, has usurped the sovereignty by night: her note indeed
is

is musical, but mine is sweeter far. The voice confirming her opinion, replied again, « is sweeter far ». Why then am I diffident, continued she, why do I fear to join the tuneful choir ! The Echo still flattering her vanity, repeated, « join the tuneful choir ». Roused by this empty phantom of encouragement, she on the morrow mingled her hootings with the harmony of the groves. But the tuneful Songsters, disgusted with her noise, and affronted by her impudence, unanimously drove her from their society, and still continue to pursue her wherever she appears.

F A B L E X I I.*Prometheus.*

PROMETHEUS formed man of the finest clay, and animated his work with fire stolen from Heaven. He endowed him with all the faculties that are to be found amongst the animal creation : he gave him the courage of the Lion, the subtlety of the Fox, the providence of the Ant, and the industry of the Bee ; and he enabled him, by the superiority of his understanding, to subdue them all, and to make them subservient to his use and pleasure. He discovered to him the metals hidden in the bowels of the earth, and shewed him their several uses. He instructed him in every thing that

might tend to cultivate and civilize human life ; he taught him to till the ground , and to improve the fertility of Nature ; to build houses , to cover himself with garments , and to defend himself against the inclemencies of the air and the seasons ; to compound medicines of salutary herbs , to heal wounds , and to cure diseases ; to construct ships , to cross the seas , and to communicate to every country the riches of all. In a word , he endued him with sense and memory , with sagacity and invention , with art and science ; and to crown all , he gave him an insight into futurity. But , alas ! this latter gift , instead of improving , wholly destroyed the proper effect of all the former. Furnished with the means and instruments of happiness ,

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Man nevertheless was miserable : through the knowledge and dread of future evil , he was incapable of enjoying present good. Prometheus saw , and immediately resolved to remedy this inconvenience : he effectually restored Man to a capacity of happiness , by depriving him of prescience , and giving him hope in its stead.

FABLES XIII.

*The Butterfly , the Snail , and
the Bee.*

A BUTTERFLY , proudly perched on the gaudy leaves of a French Marigold , was boasting the vast extent and variety of his travels. I have ranged , said he , over the graceful and majestic scenes of

*Hagley**, and have feasted my eyes with elegance and variety at *The Leasowes*** . I have wandered thro' regions of Eglantine and Honey-suckle, I have revelled in kisses on beds of Violets and Cowslips, and have enjoyed the delicious fragrance of Roses and Carnations. In short, my fancy unbounded, and my flight unrestrained, I have visited with perfect freedom all the flowers of the field or garden, and must be allowed to know the world in a superlative degree.

A Snail, who hung attentive to his wonders on a cabbage-leaf, was struck with admiration; and concluded him, from all his experience, to be the wisest of animal creatures.

It happened that a Bee pursued

* Lord Lyttelton's.

** M. Shenstone's.

her occupation on a neighbouring bed of Marjoram, and having heard our ostentatious vagrant, reprimanded him in this manner. Vain, empty flutterer, said she, whom instruction cannot improve, nor experience itself enlighten ! Thou hast rambled over the world; wherein does thy knowledge of it consist ? Thou hast seen variety of objects; what conclusions hast thou drawn from them ? Thou hast tasted of every amusement; hast thou extracted any thing for use ? I too am a traveller : go and look into my hive ; and let my treasures intimate to thee, that the end of travelling is to collect materials either for the use and emolument of private life, or for the advantage of the community.

F A B L E X I V.*The Tuberosse and the Sun-flower.*

A TUBEROSE, in a bow-window on the north side of a stately villa, addressed a Sun-flower which grew on a slope that was contiguous to the house. Pray, neighbour, says he, to what purpose do you pay all this devotion to that fictitious deity of yours, the Sun? Why are you still distorting your body, and casting up your eyes to that glaring luminary? What superstition induces you to think, that we flowers exist only through his influence? Both you and I am surely indebted to the diligence of the gardener, for our production and support. For my part, I shall reserve my homage, together with my sweets, for that

benevolent master who is continually watering and refreshing me : nor do I desire ever to see the face of that Sun you so vainly idolize , while I can enjoy the cool shade of this magnificent saloon. Truce with thy blasphemies, replied the Sun-flower : why dost thou revile that glorious Being, who dispenses life and vigour, not only to us , but to every part of the creation ? Without this , alas ! how ineffectual were the skill and vigilance of thy boasted master , either to support thy tender frame , or even to preserve his own ! But this must ever be the case with such contracted understandings : sufficient , indeed , to point out our more immediate benefactors , but disregarding the original Source from which all beneficence proceeds.

F A B L E X V.

The Magpye and the Raven.

THERE was a certain Magpye, more busy and more loquacious than any of his tribe. His tongue was in perpetual motion, and himself continually upon the wing; fluttering from place to place, and very seldom appearing twice together in the same company.

Sometimes you saw him with a flock of Pigeons, plundering a field of new-sown corn; now perched upon a cherry-tree with a parcel of Tom-Tits: the next moment, you would be surprised to find the same individual bird engaged with a flight of Crows, and feasting upon a carcass.

He took it one day into his head

to visit an old Raven, who lived retired among the branches of a venerable oak ; and there, at the foot of a lonely mountain, had past near half a century.

I admire, says the prating bird, your most romantic situation, and the wildness of these rocks and precipices around you : I am absolutely transported with the murmur of that water-fall ; methinks it diffuses a tranquillity surpassing all the joys of public life. What an agreeable sequestration from worldly bustle and impertinence ! what an opportunity of contemplating the divine beauties of Nature ! I shall most certainly quit the gaieties of town, and for the sake of these rural scenes, and my good friend's conversation, pass the remainder of my days in the solitude he has chosen.

Well, Sir, replies the Raven, I shall be at all times glad to receive you in my old-fashioned way ; but you and I should certainly prove most unsuitable companions. Your whole ambition is to shine in company, and to recommend yourself to the world by universal complaisance ; whereas my greatest happiness consists in ease and privacy, and the select conversation of a few whom I esteem. I prefer a good heart to the most voluble tongue ; and though much obliged to you for the politeness of your professions, yet I see your benevolence divided among so numerous an acquaintance, that a very slender share of it can remain for those you are pleased to honour with the name of friends.

FABLE XVI.*The Diamond and the Loadstone.*

A DIAMOND of great beauty and lustre, observing not only many other gems of a lower class ranged together with him in the same cabinet, but a Loadstone likewise placed not far from him, began to question the latter how he came there; and what pretensions he had to be ranked among the precious stones: he, who appeared to be no better than a mere flint: a sorry, coarse, rusty-looking pebble; without any the least shining quality to advance him to such an honour; and concluded with desiring him to keep his distance, and pay a proper respect to his superiors. I find, said the Loadstone,

Loadstone, you judge by external appearances; and it is your interest, that others should form their judgment by the same rule. I must own I have nothing to boast of in that respect; but I may venture to say, that I make amends for my outward defects, by my inward qualities. The great improvement of navigation in these latter ages is intirely owing to me. It is owing to me, that the distant parts of the world are known and accessible to each other; that the remotest nations are connected together, and all in a manner united into one common society; that by a mutual intercourse they relieve one another's wants, and all enjoy the several blessings peculiar to each. Great Britain is indebted to me for her wealth, her splendor,

and her power; and the arts and sciences are in a great measure obliged to me for their late improvements, and their continual increase. I am willing to allow you your due praise in its full extent; you are a very pretty bawble; I am mightily delighted to see you glitter and sparkle; I look upon you with pleasure and surprise: but I must be convinced that you are of some sort of use, before I acknowledge that you have any real merit, or treat you with that respect which you seem to demand.

FABLE XVII.

The Monster in the Sun.

AN Astronomer was observing the Sun thro' a telescope, in order to take an exact draught of the several spots which appear upon

the face of it. While he was intent upon his observations, he was on a sudden surprised with a new and astonishing appearance ; a large portion of the surface of the Sun was at once covered by a Monster of enormous size , and horrible form ; it had an immense pair of wings , a great number of legs , and a long and vast proboscis ; and that it was alive , was very apparent , from its quick and violent motions , which the observer could from time to time plainly perceive. Being sure of the fact (for how could he be mistaken in what he saw so clearly ?) our Philosopher began to draw many surprising conclusions from premises so well established. He calculated the magnitude of this extraordinary animal , and found that he co-

vered about two square degrees of the Sun's surface ; that placed upon the earth he would spread over half one hemisphere of it ; and that he was seven or eight times as big as the Moon. But what was most astonishing , was the prodigious heat that he must endure : it was plain that he was something of the nature of the Salamander , but of a far more fiery temperament ; for it was demonstrable from the clearest principles , that in his present situation he must have acquired a degree of heat two thousand times exceeding that of red-hot iron. It was a problem worth considering , whether he subsisted upon the gross vapours of the Sun , and so from time to time cleared away those spots which they are perpetually forming ,

and which would otherwise wholly obscure and incrustate its face ; or whether it might not feed on the solid substance of the orb itself, which, by this means, together with the constant expence of light, must soon be exhausted and consumed ; or whether he was not now and then supplied by the falling of some excentric Comet into the Sun. However this might be, he found by computation that the earth would be but short allowance for him for a few months : and farther, it was no improbable conjecture, that as the earth was destined to be destroyed by fire, this fiery flying Monster would remove hither at the appointed time, and might much more easily and conveniently effect a conflagration, than any Comet hitherto provided

for that service. In the earnest pursuit of these, and many the like deep and curious speculations, the Astronomer was engaged, and was preparing to communicate them to the public. In the mean time, the discovery began to be much talked of; and all the *virtuosi* gathered together to see so strange a sight. They were equally convinced of the accuracy of the observation, and of the conclusions so clearly deduced from it. At last, one, more cautious than the rest, was resolved, before he gave a full assent to the report of his senses, to examine the whole process of the affair, and all the parts of the instrument; he opened the telescope, and behold! a small Fly was inclosed in it, which having settled on the center of the object-glass, had given oc-

casion to all this marvellous Theory.

How often do men, through prejudice and passion, through envy and malice, fix upon the brightest and most exalted character the grossest and most improbable imputations? It behoves us upon such occasions to be upon our guard, and to suspend our judgments; the fault perhaps is not in the object, but in the mind of the observer.

F A B L E XVIII.

The discontented Bee.

A BEE complained to Jupiter of the numerous evils to which her condition was exposed. Her body, she said, was weak and feeble, yet was she condemned to get her

living by perpetual toil ; she was benumbed by the cold of winter , and relaxed by the heat of summer. Her haunts were infested with poisonous weeds , and her flights obstructed by storms and tempests. In short , what with dangers from without , and diseases from within , her life was rendered one continual scene of anxiety and wretchedness. Behold now , said Jupiter , the frowardness and folly of this unthankful race ! The flowers of the field I have spread before them as a feast , and have endeavoured to regale them with an endless variety. They now revel on odoriferous beds of thyme and lavender , and now on the still more fragrant banks of violets and roses. The business they complain of is the extraction of honey ; and , to al-

leviate their toil, I have allowed them wings, which readily transport them from one banquet to another. Storms, tempests, and noxious weeds, I have given them sagacity to shun; and if they are misled, 'tis through the perverseness of their inclinations. But thus it is with Bees, and thus with Men: they misconstrue the benevolence of my designs, and then complain that my decrees are rigid; they ungratefully overlook all the advantages, and magnify all the inconveniencies of their stations. But let my creatures pursue their happiness through the paths marked out by nature; and they will then feel no pains which they have not pleasures to compensate.

FABLE XIX.*The Beggar and his Dog.*

A BEGGAR and his Dog sate at the gate of a noble Courtier, and were preparing to make a meal on a bowl of fragments from the Kitchen-maid. A poor Dependant of his Lordship's, who had been sharing the singular favour of a dinner at the steward's table, was struck with the appearance, and stopped a little to observe them. The Beggar, hungry and voracious as any Courtier in Christendom, seized with greediness the choicest morsels, and swallowed them himself; the residue was divided into portions for his children. A scrag was thrust into one pocket for honest Jack, a

crust into another for bashful Tom, and a luncheon of cheese was wrapt up with care for the little favourite of his hopeful family. In short, if any thing was thrown to the Dog, it was a bone so closely picked, that it scarce afforded a pittance to keep life and soul together. How exactly alike, said the Dependant, is this poor Dog's case and mine! He is watching for a dinner from a master who cannot spare it; I for a place from a needy Lord, whose wants perhaps are greater than my own: and whose relations more clamorous than any of this Beggar's brats. Shrewdly was it said by an ingenious writer, "a Courtier's Dependant is a Beggar's Dog".

FABLE XX.

Love and Folly.

IN the most early state of things, and among the eldest of beings, existed that God, as the poets entitle him, or rather that Dæmon, as Plato calls him, whose name is Love. He was assisting to the Father of the Gods, in reducing chaos into order, in establishing the harmony of the universe, and in regulating and putting in execution the laws, by which the operations of nature are performed, and the frame of the world subsists. Universal good seemed to be his only study, and he was the supreme delight both of Gods and men. But in process of time, among other disorders that arose
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in the universe, it appeared that Love began to deviate very often from what had seemed till now to be his chief pursuit: he would raise frequent disturbances and confusion in the course of nature; though it was always under the pretence of maintaining order and agreement. It seems he had entered into a very intimate acquaintance with a person who had but lately made her appearance in the world. This person was Folly, the daughter of Pride and Ignorance. They were often together, and as often as they were, some mischief was sure to be the consequence. By degrees he introduced her into the heavens; where it was their great joy by various artifices to lead the Gods into such measures as involved them in many inconveniences,

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and exposed them to much ridicule. They deluded them all in their turns, except Minerva, the only divinity that escaped their wiles. Even Jupiter himself was induced by them to take some steps not at all suitable to the dignity of his character. Folly had gotten the entire ascendant over her companion; however, she was resolved to make still more sure of him, and engross him wholly to herself: with this design she infused a certain intoxicating juice into his nectar, the effects of which were so powerful, that in the end it utterly deprived him of his sight. Love was too much prejudiced in her favour, to apprehend her to be the cause of his misfortune; nor indeed did he seem to be in the least sensible of his condition.

But his mother Venus soon found it out : and in the excess of her grief and rage carried her complaint to Jupiter, conjuring him to punish the Sorceress who had blinded her son. Jupiter, willing to clear the heavens of such troublesome company, called both parties before him, and inquired into their conduct. After a full hearing, he determined, that Folly should make some sort of reparation for the injury done to Love : and being resolved to punish both for the many irregularities which they had lately introduced, he condemned Love to wander about the earth, and ordered Folly to be his guide.

FABLE XXI.*The Boy and the Butterfly.*

A BOY, greatly smitten with the colours of a Butterfly, pursued it from flower to flower with indefatigable pains. First he aimed to surprise it among the leaves of a rose ; then to cover it with his hat, as it was feeding on a daisy ; now hoped to secure it, as it rested on a sprig of myrtle ; and now grew sure of his prize, perceiving it loiter on a bed of violets. But the fickle Fly, continually changing one blossom for another, still eluded his attempts. At length, observing it half buried in the cup of a tulip, he rushed forward, and snatching it with violence, crushed it all to

pieces. The dying insect, seeing the poor Boy somewhat chagrined at his disappointment, addressed him with all the calmness of a stoic, in the following manner: — Behold now the end of thy unprofitable solicitude ! and learn, for the benefit of thy future life, that all pleasure is but a painted Butterfly ; which, although it may serve to amuse thee in the pursuit, if embraced with too much ardour, will perish in thy grasp.

FABLE XXII.

*The Sensitive Plant and the
Palm - tree.*

THE Sensitive Plant being brought out of the green-house on a fine summer's day, and

placed in a beautiful grove adorned with the finest forest trees , and the most curious plants , began to give himself great airs , and to treat all that were about him with much petulance and disdain. — Lord ! says he , how could the Gardener think of setting me among a parcel of trees ; gross , inanimate things , mere vegetables , and perfect stocks ! Sure he does not take me for a common plant , when he knows , that I have the sense of feeling in a more exquisite degree than he has himself : it really shocks me to see into what wretched low company he has introduced me : 'tis more than the delicacy of my constitution , and the extreme tenderness of my nerves , can bear. Pray , Mrs. Acacia , stand a little farther off , and don't presume

quite so much upon your idle pretence of being my cousin. Good Mr. Citron, keep your distance, I beseech you; your strong scent quite overpowers me. Friend Palm-tree, your offensive shade is really more than I am able to support. The lofty Palm-tree, as he was shooting up his head with the more vigour under the weight that was hung upon it, condescended to rebuke the impertinent creature in the following manner: Thou vegetable fribble! learn to know thyself, and thy own worthlessness and insignificance. Thou valuest thyself on a vicious softness, a false delicacy, the very defect and imbecillity of thy nature. What art thou good for, that shrinkest at a touch, and droopest at a breath of air; feeble and barren, a perpetual

torment to thyself, and wholly useless to others? Whereas we, whom thou treatest with such disdain, make a grateful return to man for his care of us: some of us yield him fruit, others are serviceable to him by their strength and firmness; we shade him from the heat of the Sun, and we defend him from the violence of the winds; I am particularly distinguished for my hardiness and perseverance, my steadiness and constancy: and on account of those very qualities which thou wantest, and affectest to despise, have the honour to be made the emblem of conquest, and the reward of the conqueror.

FABLE XXIII.*The Elm-tree and the Vine.*

AN extravagant young Vine, vainly ambitious of independency, and fond of rambling at large, despised the alliance of a stately Elm that grew near, and courted her embraces. Having risen to some small height without any kind of support, she shot forth her flimsy branches to a very uncommon and superfluous length, calling on her neighbour to take notice how little she wanted his assistance. Poor infatuated Shrub, replied the Elm, how inconsistent is thy conduct! Wouldst thou be truly independent, thou shouldst carefully apply those juices to the enlargement of thy stem, which

thou lavishest in vain upon unnecessary foliage ; I shortly shall behold thee groveling on the ground ; yet, countenanced, indeed, by many of the human race, who, intoxicated with vanity, have despised œconomy ; and who, to support for a moment their empty boast of independence, have exhausted the very source of it in frivolous expences.

FABLE XXIV.

*The Laurustinus and the
Rose-tree.*

IN the quarters of a shrubbery, where deciduous plants and evergreens were intermingled with an air of negligence, it happened that a Rose grew not far from a Laurustinus. The Rose, enlivened

by the breath of June, and attired in all its gorgeous blossoms, looked with much contempt on the Laurustinus, who had nothing to display but the dusky verdure of its leaves. What a wretched neighbour, cried she, is this! and how unworthy to partake the honour of my company! Better to bloom and die in the desert, than to associate myself here with such low and dirty vegetables. And is this my lot at last, whom every nation has agreed to honour, and every Poet conspired to reverence, as the undoubted sovereign of the field and garden? If I really am so, let my subjects at least keep their distance, and let a circle remain vacant round me, suitable to the state my rank requires. Here, Gardener, bring thy hatchet; prithee cut down this

Laurustinus ; or at least remove it to its proper sphere. Be pacified, my lovely Rose, replied the Gardener, enjoy thy Sovereignty with moderation, and thou shalt receive all the homage which thy beauty can require. But remember that in winter, when neither thou nor any of thy tribe produce one flower or leaf to cheer me, this faithful Shrub, which thou despisest, will become the glory of my garden. Prudence therefore, as well as gratitude, is concerned, in the protection of a friend, that will shew his Friendship in adversity.

FABLE. XXV.*The Tentyrites and the
Ichneumon.*

A CROCODILE of prodigious size, and uncommon fierceness, infested the banks of the Nile, and spread desolation through all the neighbouring country. He seized the Shepherd, together with the Sheep, and devoured the Herdsman as well as the Cattle. Imboldened by success, and the terror which prevailed wherever he appeared, he ventured to carry his incursions even into the island of Tentyra, and to brave the people, who boast themselves the only tamers of his race. The Tentyrites themselves were struck with horror at the appearance of a monster

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so much more terrible than they had ever seen before : even the boldest of them dared not to attack him openly ; and the most experienced long endeavoured with all their art and address to surprise him , but in vain. As they were consulting together , what they should do in these circumstances , an Ichneumon stepped forth , and thus addressed them : — I perceive your distress , neighbours ; and though I cannot assist you in the present difficulty , yet give me leave to offer you some advice that may be of use to you for the future. A little prudence is worth all your courage : it may be glorious to overcome a great evil , but the wisest way is to prevent it. You despise the Crocodile while he is small and weak ; and do not sufficiently

consider, that as he is a long-lived animal, so 'tis his peculiar property to grow as long as he lives. You see I am a poor, little, feeble creature; yet am I much more terrible to the Crocodile, and more useful to the country, than you are. I attack him in the egg; and while you are contriving for months together, how to get the better of one Crocodile, and all to no purpose, I effectually destroy fifty of them in a day.

FABLE XXVI.

The Tulip and the Rose.

A TULIP and a Rose happened to be near neighbours in the same garden. They were both indeed extremely beautiful; yet the Rose engaged considerably more than

an equal share of the Gardener's attention. Enamoured, as in truth he was, of the delicious odour it diffused, he appeared, in the eye of the Tulip, to be always kissing and caressing it. The envy and jealousy of rival beauties are not easily to be concealed. The Tulip, vain of its external charms, and unable to bear the thought of being forsaken for another, remonstrated in these words against the Gardener's partiality. Why are my beauties thus neglected? Are not my colours more bright, more various, and more inviting, than any which that red-faced Thing has to display? Why then is she to engross your whole affection, and thus for ever to be preferred? — Be not dissatisfied, my fair Tulip, said the Gardener; I acknowledge thy beauties, and

admire them as they deserve. But there are found in my favourite Rose such attractive odours, such internal charms, that I enjoy a banquet in their fragrance, which no mere beauty can pretend to furnish.

FABLE XXVII.

The Woodcock and the Mallard.

A Woodcock and a Mallard were feeding together in some marshy ground at the tail of a mill-pond. Lord, says the squeamish Woodcock, in what a voracious and beastly manner do you devour all that comes before you ! Neither Snail, Frog, Toad, nor any kind of filth, can escape the fury of your enormous appetite. All alike goes down, without measure and

without distinction. — What an odious vice is Gluttony. Good-lack ! replied the Mallard, pray how came you to be my accuser ? And whence has your excessive delicacy a right to censure my plain eating ? Is it a crime to satisfy one's hunger ? Or is it not indeed a virtue rather, to be pleased with the food which nature offers us ? Surely I would sooner be charged with gluttony, than with that finical and sickly appetite, on which you are pleased to ground your superiority of taste. — What a silly vice is Daintiness.

Thus endeavouring to palliate their respective passions, our Epicures parted with a mutual contempt. The Mallard hasting to devour some garbage, which was in reality a bait, immediately

gorged a hook thro' mere greediness, and oversight : while the Woodcock , flying through a glade , in order to seek his favourite juices , was entangled in a net , spread across it for that purpose ; falling each of them a sacrifice to their different , but equal , foibles.

FABLE XXVIII.

The Stars and the Sky-Rocket.

AS a Rocket , on a rejoicing night , ascended through the air , and observed the stream of light that distinguished his passage , he could not forbear exulting in his elevation , and calling upon the Stars to do him reverence. Behold , said he , what gazing multitudes admire the lustre of my

train, whilst all your feeble sparks of light pass unobserved, or disregarded ! The Stars heard his empty boast with a silent indignation : The Dog - Star only vouchsafed to answer him. How weak are they, said he, who value themselves on the voice of popular applause ! 'Tis true, the novelty of thy appearance may procure to thee more admiration from vulgar minds than our daily splendors can attract, although indeed a lasting miracle. But do not estimate thy importance by the capricious fancy of ill-judging mortals. Know thyself to be but the gaudy pageant of a few moments, the transient gaze of a giddy and ignorant multitude. Even while I speak, thy blaze is half extinguished, and thou art at this instant sinking into per-

petual oblivion. Whereas our fires were lighted up by Heaven for the admiration and advantage of the universe ; and our glory shall endure for ever.

FABLE XXIX.

The Farmer and his three Enemies.

A WOLF, a Fox, and a Hare, happened one evening to be foraging in different parts of a Farmer's yard. Their first effort was pretty successful, and they returned in safety to their several quarters : however, not so happy as to be unperceived by the Farmer's watchful eye ; who placing several kinds of snares, made each his prisoner in the next attempt. He first took the Hare to task who confessed she had eaten

a few turnip - tops , merely to satisfy her hunger : besought him piteously to spare her life , and promised never to enter his grounds again. He then accosted the Fox , who in a fawning obsequious tone , protested that he came into his premises through no other motive than pure goodwill , to restrain the Hares , and other vermin , from the plunder of his corn ; and that , whatever evil tongues might say , he had too great a regard both for him and for justice to be in the least capable of any dishonest action. He last of all examined the Wolf what business brought him within the purlieus of a Farmer's yard ? The Wolf very impudently declared , it was with a view of destroying his Lambs , to which he had an undoubted right : that

the Farmer himself was the only felon, who robbed the community of Wolves of what was meant to be their proper food. That this, at least, was his opinion; and whatever fate attended him, he should not scruple to risque his life in the pursuit of his lawful prey.

The Farmer having heard their pleas, determined the cause in the following manner: The Hare, said he, deserves compassion, for the penitence she shews, and the humble confession she has made: — As for the Fox and Wolf, let them be hanged together; criminals alike with respect to the fact, they have alike heightened their equal guilt by the aggravations of hypocrisy and of impudence,

FABLE XXX.*The Wolf and the Shepherd's Dog.*

A WOLF ranging over the forest, came within the borders of a Sheep-walk ; when meeting with a Shepherd's Dog , that with a surly sort of a growl , demanded his business there , he thought proper to put on as innocent an appearance as he could , and protested upon his honour that he meant not the least offence. I am afraid , said the Dog , the pledge of your honour is but a poor deposit for your honesty : you must not take it amiss , if I object to the security. No slur upon my reputation , replied the Wolf , I beg of you. My sense of honour
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is as delicate , as my great achievements are renowned. I would not leave a stain upon my memory for the world. The fame of what are commonly called great achievements is very precious , to be sure , returned the Dog ; almost equal to the character of an excellent butcher , a gallant highwayman, or an expert assassin. While the Dog was yet speaking , a Lamb happened to stray within reach of our hero. The temptation was stronger than he was able to resist : he sprung upon his prey , and was scouring hastily away with it. However , the Dog seized and held him , till the arrival of the Shepherd , who took measures for his execution. Just as he was going to dispatch him , I observe , says the Dog , that one of your noble achievements is the destruc-

tion of the innocent. You are welcome to the renown, as you are also to the reward of it. As for me, I shall prefer the credit of having honestly defended my master's property, to any fame you have acquired by thus heroically invading it.

FABLE XXXI.

The Mushroom and the Acorn.

AN Acorn fell from the top of an old venerable Oak, full on the head of a Mushroom that unhappily sprung up beneath it. Wounded by the blow, the Mushroom complained of the incivility. Impertinent upstart, replied the Acorn, why didst thou, with familiar boldness, approach so near to thy superiors? Shall

the wretched offspring of a dunghill presume to raise its head on a spot ennobled by my ancestors for so many generations? I do not mean, returned the Mushroom, to dispute the honour of thy birth, or to put my own in competition with it; on the contrary, I must acknowledge that I hardly know from whence I sprung. But sure 'tis merit, and not mere ancestry, that obtains the regard of those whose approbation is truly valuable: I have little perhaps to boast; but surely thou, who hast thus insulted me, canst have no pretence to boast any. I please the palates of mankind, and give a poignant flavour to their most elegant entertainments; while thou, with all the pride of thy ancestry, art fit only to fatten Hogs.

FABLE XXXII.

The Court of Death.

DEATH, the king of terrors, was determined to choose a prime minister; and his pale courtiers, the ghastly train of diseases, were all summoned to attend: when each preferred his claim to the honour of this illustrious office. Fever urged the numbers he destroyed; cold Palsy set forth his pretensions, by shaking all his limbs; and Dropsy, by his swelled unwieldy carcase. Gout hobbled up, and alledged his great power in racking every joint; and Asthma's inability to speak, was a strong, though silent, argument in favour of his claim. Stone and Colic pleaded their violence; Plague,

his rapid progress in destruction ; and Consumption , though slow , insisted that he was sure. In the midst of this contention , the court was disturbed with the noise of music , dancing , feasting , and revelry ; when immediately entered a lady , with a bold lascivious air , and a flushed and jovial countenance : she was attended on one hand by a troop of cooks and bacchanals ; and on the other , by a train of wanton youths and damsels , who merrily danced to the softest musical instruments : her name was *Intemperance*. She waved her hand , and thus addressed the crowd of Diseases : Give way , ye sickly band of pretenders , nor dare to vie with my superior merits in the service of this great Monarch. Am not I your parent ? the author of

your beings ? Do ye not derive your power of shortening human life almost wholly from me ? Who then so fit as myself for this important office ? The grisly Monarch grinned a smile of approbation, placed her at his right hand, and she immediately became his prime favourite, and principal minister.

FABLE XXXIII.

The Toad and the Gold-fish.

AS a Gold-fish, newly brought from the warm regions of the east, displayed his beauties in the Sun ; a Toad, who had long eyed him with no small degree of envy, broke out into this exclamation : How partial and how fantastic is the favour of mankind!

regardless of every excellence that is obvious and familiar ; and only struck with what is imported from a distant climate at a large expence ! What a pompous bason is here constructed , and what extreme fondness is here shewn for this insignificant stranger ! While a quadruped of my importance is neglected , shunned , and even persecuted. Surely , were I to appear in China , I should receive the same or perhaps greater honours than are lavished here upon this tinsel favourite.

The Gold-fish , conscious of his real beauty , and somewhat angry to be thus insulted by so very unsightly and deformed a creature , made this rational reply. It must be confessed , that the opinions of men are sometimes guided by the caprice you mention. Yet as

for me and the rest of my tribe, it is well known that if we are admired in England, we are not less admired at home: being there esteemed by the greatest mandarins, fed by stated officers, and lodged in basons as superb as any your nation has to boast. Perhaps then, notwithstanding your sage remark, there are some virtues and some qualities that please and disgust almost universally; and as innocence, joined to beauty, seldom fails to procure esteem, so malice added to deformity, will cause as general a detestation.

FABLE XXXIV.

The King-fisher and the Sparrow.

AS a King-fisher was sitting beneath the shade, upon the banks of a river, she was surprised on a sudden by the fluttering of a Sparrow that had eloped from the neighbouring town, to visit her. When the first compliments were over, «How is it possible», said the Sparrow, «that a bird so finely adorned can think of spending all her days in the very depth of retirement! The golden plumage of your breast, the shining azure of your pinions, were never given you to be concealed, but to attract the wonder of beholders. Why then should you not endeavour to know the world, and

be at the same time, yourself, both known and admired » ? You are very complaisant at least, replied the King-fisher, to conclude that my being admired, would be the consequence of my being known. But it has sometimes been my lot, in the lonesome valleys that I frequent, to hear the complaints of beauty that has been neglected ; and of worth that has been despised. Possibly it does not always happen, that even superior excellence is found to excite admiration, or to obtain encouragement. I have learned besides, not to build my happiness upon the opinion of others, so much as upon self-conviction, and the approbation of my own heart. Remember, I am a King-fisher ; these woods and streams are my delight ; and so

long as they are free from winds and tempests, believe me, I am perfectly content with my situation. Why therefore should I court the noise and bustle of the world, which I find so little agreeable to my native disposition? It may be the joy of a Sparrow to indulge his curiosity, and to display his eloquence. I, for my part, love silence, privacy, and contemplation; and think that every one should consult the native bias of his temper, before he chooses the way of life in which he expects to meet with happiness.

FABLE XXXV.*The Sorceress.*

NIGHT and silence had now given repose to the whole world; when an old ill-natured Sorceress, in order to exercise her infernal arts, entered into a gloomy wood, that trembled at her approach. The scene of her horrid incantations was within the circumference of a large circle; in the centre of which an altar was raised, where the hallowed vervain blazed in triangular flames, while the mischievous Hag pronounced the dreadful words, which bound all hell in obedience to her charms. She blows a raging pestilence from her lips into the neighbouring folds; the innocent cattle die, to
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afford a fit sacrifice to the infernal deities. The moon, by powerful spells drawn down from her orb, enters the wood : legions of spirits from Pluto's realms appear before the altar, and demand her pleasure. Tell me, said she, where I shall find what I have lost, my favourite little Dog. How ! — cried they all, enraged. — Impertinent Beldame ! must the order of nature be inverted, and the repose of every creature disturbed, for the sake of thy little Dog ?

FABLE XXXVI.

The Cameleon.

Two travellers happened on their journey to be engaged in a warm dispute about the colour of the Cameleon. One of them affirmed, it was blue ; that he had seen it with his own eyes, upon the naked branch of a tree, feeding on the air, in a very clear day. The other strongly asserted it was green , and that he had viewed it very closely and minutely on the broad leaf of a fig-tree. Both of them were positive, and the dispute was rising to a quarrel : but a third person luckily coming by, they agreed to refer the question to his decision. Gentlemen, said the arbitrator, with

a smile of great self-satisfaction, you could not have been more lucky in our reference, as I happen to have caught one of them last night: But indeed you are both mistaken, for the creature is totally black. Black! impossible! Nay, quoth the umpire, with great assurance, the matter may soon be decided, for I immediately inclosed my Cameleon in a little paper box, and here it is. So saying, he drew it out of his pocket, opened his box, and behold it was as white as snow. The positive disputants looked equally surprised, and equally confounded: while the sagacious reptile, assuming the air of a philosopher, thus admonished them: Ye children of men, learn diffidence and moderation in your opinions. 'Tis true, you happen,

in the present instance , to be all in the right , and have only considered the subject under different circumstances : but pray , for the future , allow others to have eyesight as well as yourselves ; and be candid enough not to condemn any man for judging of things as they appear to his own view.

FABLE XXXVII.

The Travellers and the Money-bag.

AS two Men were travelling on the road , one of them espied a Bag of Money lying on the ground , and picking it up , I am in luck this morning , said he , I have found a Bag of Money. Yes , returned the other ; though , methinks you should not say I , but We have found it : for when

two friends are travelling together, they ought equally to share in any accidental good fortune that may happen to attend them. No, rejoined the former, it was I that found it, and I must insist upon keeping it. He had no sooner spoken the words, than they were alarmed with a hue and cry after a thief, who had that morning taken a purse upon the road. Lord, says the finder, this is extremely unfortunate; we shall certainly be seized. Good Sir, replied the other, be pleased not to say We, but I: as you would not allow me a share in the prize, you have no right to make me a partner in the punishment.

FABLE XXXVIII.

The Lynx and the Mole.

UNDER the covert a thick wood, at the foot of a tree, as a Lynx lay whetting his teeth, and waiting for his prey, he espied a Mole, half buried under a hillock of her own raising. Alas, poor creature, said the Lynx, how much I pity thee! Surely Jupiter has been very unkind, to debar thee from the light of the day, which rejoices the whole creation. Thou art certainly not above half alive; and it would be doing thee a service to put an end to so unanimated a being. I thank you for your kindness, replied the Mole, but I think I have full as much vivacity as my state and

circumstances require. For the rest, I am perfectly well contented with the faculties which Jupiter has allotted me, who I am sure wants not our direction in distributing his gifts with propriety. I have not, 'tis true, your piercing eyes; but I have ears which answer all my purposes full as well. Hark! for example, I am warned, by a noise which I hear behind you, to fly from danger. So saying, he slunk into the earth; while a javelin from the arm of a hunter pierced the quick-sighted Lynx to the heart.

FABLE XXXIX.*Genius, Virtue, and Reputation.*

GENIUS, Virtue, and Reputation, three intimate friends, agreed to travel over the island of Great Britain, to see whatever might be worthy of observation. But as some misfortune, said they, may happen to separate us, let us consider before we set out, by what means we may find each other again. Should it be my ill fate, said Genius, to be severed from you, my associates, which Heaven forbid! you may find me kneeling in devotion before the tomb of Shakespear; or rapt in some grove where Milton talked with angels; or musing in the grotto where Pope caught in-

spiration. Virtue, with a sigh, acknowledged that her friends were not very numerous : but were I to lose you, she cried, with whom I am at present so happily united, I should choose to take sanctuary in the temples of religion, in the palaces of royalty, or in the stately domes of ministers of state : but as it may be my ill fortune to be there denied admittance, enquire for some cottage where Contentment has a bower, and there you will certainly find me. Ah, my dear companions, said Reputation very earnestly, you, I perceive, when missing, may possibly be recovered ; but take care, I intreat you, always to keep sight of me, for if I am once lost, I am never to be retrieved.

FABLE XL.*The Hermit and the Bear.*

AN imprudent friend often does as much mischief by his too great zeal, as the worst enemy could effect by his malice.

A certain Hermit having done a good office to a Bear, the grateful creature was so sensible of his obligation, that he begged to be admitted as the guardian and companion of his solitude. The Hermit willingly accepted his offer, and conducted him to his cell; where they passed their time together in an amicable manner. One very hot day, the Hermit having laid himself down to sleep, the officious Bear employed himself in driving away the Flies from

his Patron's face. But in spite of all his care, one of the Flies perpetually returned to the attack, and at last settled upon the Hermit's nose. Now I shall have you most certainly, said the Bear; and, with the best intentions imaginable, gave him a violent blow on the face; which very effectually indeed demolished the Fly, but at the same time most terribly bruised the face of his Benefactor.

FABLE XLI.

The partial Judge.

A FARMER came to a neighbouring Lawyer, expressing great concern for an accident which he said had just happened. One of your Oxen, continued he, has

been gored by an unlucky Bull of mine, and I should be glad to know how I am to make you reparation. Thou art a very honest fellow, replied the Lawyer, and wilt not think it unreasonable that I expect one of thy Oxen in return. It is no more than justice, quoth the Farmer, to be sure; but what did I say? — I mistake. — It is your Bull that has killed one of my Oxen. Indeed! says the Lawyer, that alters the case: I must enquire into the affair; and if — And *if*! said the Farmer — the business I find would have been concluded without an *if*, had you been as ready to do justice to others as to exact it from them.

FABLE XLII.*The Nobleman and his Son.*

A CERTAIN Nobleman , much infected by superstition , dreamed one night that his only Son , a youth about fifteen years of age , was thrown from his horse as he was hunting , and killed upon the spot. This idle dream made so strong an impression upon the weak and credulous father , that he formed a resolution never more to suffer his Son to partake of this his favourite diversion. The next morning that the hounds went out , the young man requested permission to follow them ; but instead of receiving it , as usual , his father acquainted him with his dream , and peremptorily

enjoined him to forbear the sport. The youth, greatly mortified at this unexpected refusal, left the room much disconcerted, and it was with some difficulty that he restrained his passion from indecently breaking out in his Father's presence. But upon his return to his own apartment, passing through a gallery of pictures, in which was a piece representing a company of gypsies telling a country girl her fortune — 'Tis owing, said he, to a ridiculous superstition of the same kind with that of this simple wench, that I am debarred from one of the principal pleasures of my life : at the same time, with great emotion, he struck his hand against the canvas, when a rusty old nail behind the picture ran far into his wrist. The pain and anguish of

the wound threw the youth into a violent fever, which proved too powerful for the skill of the physicians, and in a few days put an end to his life : illustrating an observation, that an over-cautious attention to avoid evils, often brings them upon us ; and that we are frequently thrown head-long into misfortunes by the very means we make use of to avoid them.

FABLE XLIII.

The Farmer and his Dog.

A FARMER who had just stepped into the field to mend a gap in one of his fences, found at his return the cradle, where he had left his only Child asleep, turned upside down, the clothes all torn

and bloody, and his Dog lying near it besmeared also with blood. Immediately conceiving that the creature had destroyed his Child, he instantly dashed out his brains with the hatchet in his hand: when turning up the cradle, he found his Child unhurt, and an enormous Serpent lying dead on the floor, killed by that faithful Dog, whose courage and fidelity in preserving the life of his Son deserved another kind of reward. These affecting circumstances afforded him a striking lesson, how dangerous it is too hastily to give way to the blind impulse of a sudden passion.

FABLE XLIV.

The conceited Owl.

A YOUNG Owl, having accidentally seen himself in a crystal fountain, conceived the highest opinion of his personal perfections. 'Tis time, said he, that Hymen should give me children as beautiful as myself, to the glory of the night, and the ornament of our groves. What pity would it be, if the race of the most accomplished of birds should be extinct for want of a mate! Happy the female who is destined to spend her life with me! Full of these self-approving thoughts, he intreated the Crow to propose a match between him and the royal daughter of the Eagle. Do you

imagine, said the Crow, that the noble Eagle, whose pride it is to gaze on the brightest of the heavenly luminaries, will consent to marry his daughter to you, who cannot so much as open your eyes whilst it is day-light? But the self-conceited Owl was deaf to all that his friend could urge; who, after much persuasion, was at length prevailed upon to undertake the commission. His proposal was received in the manner that might be expected: the king of birds laughed him to scorn. However, being a monarch of some humour, he ordered him to acquaint the Owl, that if he would meet him the next morning at sun-rise in the middle of the sky, he would consent to give him his daughter in marriage. The presumptuous Owl undertook to perform the

condition ; but being dazzled with the sun , and his head growing giddy , he fell from his height upon a rock ; from whence being pursued by a flight of birds , he was glad at last to make his escape into the hollow of an old oak ; where he passed the remainder of his days in that obscurity for which Nature designed him.

F A B L E X L V.

The Parrot.

A CERTAIN widower , in order to amuse his solitary hours , and in some measure supply the conversation of his departed helpmate of loquacious memory , determined to purchase a Parrot. With this view he applied to a dealer in birds , who shewed him a large

collection of Parrots of various kinds. Whilst they were exercising their talkative talents before him, one repeating the cries of the town, another asking for a cup of sack, and a third bawling out for a coach, he observed a green Parrot, perched in a thoughtful manner at a distance upon the foot of a table: And so you, my grave gentleman, said he, are quite silent. To which the Parrot replied, like a philosophical bird, «I think the more.» Pleased with this sensible answer, our widower immediately paid down his price, and took home the bird, conceiving great things from a creature who had given so striking a specimen of his parts. But after having instructed him during a whole month, he found, to his great disappointment, that

he could get nothing more from him than the fatiguing repetition of the same dull sentence, «I think the more.» I find, said he, in great wrath, that thou art a most invincible fool: and ten times more a fool was I, for having formed a favourable opinion of thy abilities upon no better foundation than an affected solemnity.

F A B L E XLVI.

The litigious Cats.

Two Cats having stolen some cheese, could not agree about dividing their prize. In order therefore to settle the dispute, they consented to refer the matter to a Monkey. The proposed arbitrator very readily accepted the office, and producing a balance,

put a part into each scale. « Let me see », said he, « ay — this lump outweighs the other » : and immediately bit off a considerable piece, in order to reduce it, he observed, to an equilibrium. The opposite scale was now become the heaviest ; which afforded our conscientious judge an additional reason for a second mouthful. Hold, hold, said the two Cats, who began to be alarmed for the event, give us our respective shares, and we are satisfied. If you are satisfied, returned the Monkey, Justice is not : a case of this intricate nature is by no means so soon determined. Upon which he continued to nibble first one piece, and then the other, till the poor Cats, seeing their cheese gradually diminishing, intreated him to give himself no

farther trouble, but deliver to them what remained. Not so fast, I beseech you, friends, replied the Monkey; we owe justice to ourselves as well as to you: what remains is due to me in right of my office. Upon which he crammed the whole into his mouth, and with great gravity dismissed the court.

FABLE XLVII.

Death and Cupid.

JUPITER sent forth Death and Cupid to travel round the world, giving each of them a bow in his hand, and a quiver of arrows at his back. It was ordered by the Supreme Disposer of all events, that the arrows of Love should only wound the young, in order

to supply the decays of mortal men; and those of Death were to strike old age, and free the world from an useless charge. Our travellers, being one day extremely fatigued with their journey, rested themselves under the covert of a wood, and throwing down their arrows in a promiscuous manner, they both fell fast asleep. They had not reposed themselves long, before they were awakened by a sudden noise; when hastily gathering up their arms, each in a confusion took by mistake some of the darts that belonged to the other. By this means, it frequently happened that Death vanquished the young, and Cupid subdued the old. Jupiter observed the error, but did not think proper to redress it; foreseeing that some
good

good might arise from their unlucky exchange. And , in fact , if men were wise , they would learn from this mistake to be apprehensive of Death in their youth , and to guard against the amorous passions in their old age.

FABLE XLVIII.

The Spectacles.

How strangely all mankind differ in their opinions ! and how strongly each is attached to his own !

Jupiter one day , enjoying himself over a bowl of nectar , and in a merry humour , determined to make mankind a present. Momus was appointed to convey it to them ; who mounted on a rapid car , was presently on earth. Come

hither, says he, ye happy mortals; great Jupiter has opened for your benefit his all-gracious hands. 'Tis true, he made you somewhat short-sighted, but to remedy that inconvenience, behold how he has favoured you! So saying, he unloosed his portmanteau, when an infinite number of Spectacles tumbled out, and were picked up by the crowd with all the eagerness imaginable. There were enough for all, every man had his pair. But it was soon found that these Spectacles did not represent objects to all mankind alike: for one pair was purple, another blue; one was white, and another black: some of the glasses were red, some green, and some yellow. In short, there were of all manner of colours, and every shade of colour. However, not-

withstanding this diversity, every man was charmed with his own, as believing it the truest; and enjoyed in opinion all the satisfaction of reality.

F A B L E X L I X.

Jupiter's Lottery.

JUPITER, in order to please mankind, directed Mercury to give notice that he had established a Lottery, in which there were no blanks; and that, amongst a variety of other valuable chances, Wisdom was the highest prize. It was Jupiter's command, that in this Lottery some of the gods should also become adventurers. The tickets being disposed of, and the wheels placed, Mercury was employed

to preside at the drawing. It happened that the best prize fell to Minerva : upon which a general murmur ran through the assembly , and hints were thrown out that Jupiter had used some unfair practices to secure this desirable lot to his daughter. Jupiter , that he might at once both punish and silence these impious clamours of the human race , presented them with Folly in the place of Wisdom; with which they went away perfectly well contented. And from that time the greatest Fools have always looked upon themselves as the wisest men.

FABLE L.

The Bee and the Fly.

A BEE observing a Fly frisking about her hive, asked him, in a very passionate tone, what he did there? Is it for such scoundrels as you, said she, to intrude into the company of the queens of the air? You have great reason, truly, replied the Fly, to be out of humour: I am sure they must be mad, who would have any concern with so quarrelsome a nation. And why so? thou saucy malapert, returned the enraged Bee; we have the best laws, and are governed by the best policy in the world. We feed upon the most fragrant flowers, and all our business is to make honey;

honey , which equals nectar ,
thou tasteless wretch , who livest
upon nothing but putrefaction
and excrement. We live as we
can , rejoined the Fly : poverty ,
I hope , is no crime ; but passion
is one , I am sure. The honey
you make is sweet , I grant you ;
but your heart is all bitterness :
for to be revenged on an enemy ,
you will destroy your own life ,
and are so inconsiderate in your
rage , as to do more mischief to
yourselves than to your adver-
sary. Take my word for it , one
had better have less considerable
talents , and use them with more
discretion.

F A B L E L I.

The Sun and the Vapour.

IN the evening of a summer's day, the Sun, as he descended behind the western hill, beheld a thick and unwholesome Vapour extending itself over the whole face of the vallies. Every shrub and every flower immediately folded up its leaves, and shrunk from the touch of this detested enemy. Well hast thou chosen, said the God of day, the hour of my departure, to spread thy pestilential influence, and taint the beauties of the creation. Enjoy for a short space the notable triumphs of thy malignity. I shall return again with the morning, repair thy mischiefs, and put an

end to thy existence. May the Slanderer in thy fate discern his own, and be warned to dread the return of Truth.

FABLE LII.

Momus.

TIS said that Momus was perpetually blaming and ridiculing whatever he saw. Even the works of the Gods themselves could not escape his universal censure. The eyes of the Bull, he said, were so placed by Jupiter, that they could not direct his horns in pushing at his enemies. The houses which Minerva had instructed men to build, were contrived so very injudiciously, that they could not be removed from a bad neighbourhood, nor from any other incon-

venience. In short, the frame of Man himself was in his opinion extremely defective; having no window in his bosom that might demonstrate his sincerity, or betray his wicked purposes, and prevent their execution. These and many other faults were found in the productions of Nature; but when he surveyed the works of art, there was no end of his alterations. Jupiter, being resolved to try how far his malice would proceed, sent his daughter Venus to desire that he would give his opinion of her beauty. She appeared accordingly before the churlish god, trembling at the apprehension of his known severity. He examined her proportions with all the rigour of an envious critic. But her shape and complexion were so striking, and her

smiles and graces so very engaging, that he found it impossible to give the least colour to any objection he could make. Yet to shew how hard malevolence will struggle for a cavil, as she was retiring from his presence, he begged she would acquaint her father, that whatever grace might be in her motion, yet — her slippers were too noisy.

FABLE LIII.

The Trumpeter.

A TRUMPETER in a certain army happened to be taken prisoner. He was ordered immediately to execution, but pleaded in excuse for himself, that it was unjust a person should suffer death, who, far from an intention of mischief,

did not even wear an offensive weapon. So much the rather, replied one of the enemy, shalt thou die; since without any design of fighting thyself, thou excitest others to the bloody business: for he that is the abettor of a bad action, is at least equally guilty with him that commits it.

F A B L E L I V.

The two Foxes.

Two Foxes formed a stratagem to enter a hen-roost: which having successfully executed, and killed the cock, the hens, and the chickens, they began to feed upon them with singular satisfaction. One of the Foxes, who was young and inconsiderate, was for devouring them all upon the

spot : the other , who was old and covetous, proposed to reserve some of them for another time. « For experience, child, » said he, « has made me wise , and I have » seen many unexpected events » since I came into the world. Let » us provide , therefore , against » what may happen, and not consume all our store at one meal». « All this is wonderful wise , » replied the young Fox ; « but for » my part , I am resolved not to » stir till I have eaten as much » as will serve me a whole week ; » for who would be mad enough » to return hither ? when it is » certain the owner of these fowls » will watch for us, and if he » should catch us, would certainly » put us to death. » After this short discourse , each pursued his own scheme : the young Fox eat
till

till he burst himself, and had scarcely strength to reach his hole before he died. The old one, who thought it much better to deny his appetite for the present, and lay up provision for the future, returned the next day, and was killed by the Farmer. Thus every age has its peculiar vice; the young suffer by their insatiable thirst after pleasure; and the old, by their incorrigible and inordinate avarice.

F A B L E L V.

The Ant and the Caterpillar.

AS a Caterpillar was advancing very slowly along one of the alleys of a beautiful garden, he was met by a pert lively Ant, who tossing up her head with a scornful air,

L

cried, Prithee get out of the way, thou poor creeping animal, and do not presume to obstruct the paths of thy superiors, by wriggling along the road, and besmearing the walks appropriated to their footsteps. Poor creature! thou lookest like a thing half made, which Nature not liking, threw by unfinished. I could almost pity thee, methinks; but it is beneath one of my quality to talk to such mean creatures as thou art: and so, poor crawling wretch, adieu.

The humble Caterpillar, struck dumb with this disdainful language, retired, went to work, wound himself up in a silken cell, and at the appointed time came out a beautiful Butterfly. Just as he was sallying forth, he observed the scornful Ant passing

by, Proud insect, said he, stop a moment, and learn from the circumstances in which you now see me, never to despise any one for that condition in which Providence has thought fit to place him; as there is none so mean, but may one day, either in this state or in a better, be exalted above those who looked down upon him with unmerited contempt.

FABLE LVI.

The Fighting Cocks and the Turkey.

Two Cocks of the genuine game-breed met by chance upon the confines of their respective walks. To such great and heroic souls the smallest matter imagi-

nable affords occasion for dispute. They approach each other with pride and indignation ; they look defiance ; they crow a challenge ; and immediately commences a long and bloody battle. It was fought on both sides with so much courage and dexterity ; they gave and received such deep and desperate wounds ; that they both lay down upon the turf utterly spent , blinded , and disabled. While this was their situation , a Turkey , that had been a spectator of all that passed between them , drew near to the field of battle , and reprov'd them in this manner : « How foolish and absurd has been your quarrel , my good neighbours ! A more ridiculous one could scarce have happened among the most contentious of all creatures , Men. Because you

have crowed perhaps in each other's hearing, or one of you has picked up a grain of corn upon the territories of his rival, you have both rendered yourselves miserable for the remainder of your days».

FABLE VII.

The Peacock.

THE Peacock, who at first was distinguished only by a crest of feathers, preferred a petition to Juno that he might be honoured also with a train. As the bird was a particular favourite, Juno readily enough assented; and his train was ordered to surpass that of every fowl in the creation. The Minion, conscious of his superb appearance, thought it requisite

to assume a proportionable dignity of gait and manners. The common Poultry of the farm-yard were quite astonished at his magnificence ; and even the Pheasants themselves beheld him with an eye of envy. — But when he attempted to fly , he perceived himself to have sacrificed all his activity to ostentation ; and that he was encumbered by the pomp in which he placed his glory.

FABLE LVIII.

The Bee and the Spider.

ON the leaves and flowers of the same shrub a Spider and a Bee pursued their several occupations : the one covering her thighs with honey ; the other distending his bag with poison. The Spider, as he glanced his eye obliquely at the Bee, was ruminating with spleen on the superiority of her productions. And how happens it, said he, in a peevish tone, that I am able to collect nothing but poison from the self-same plant that supplies thee with honey ? My pains and industry are not less than thine ; in those respects we are each indefatigable. It proceeds only,

replied the Bee, from the different disposition of our nature ; mine gives a pleasing flavour to every thing I touch , whereas thine converts to poison , what by a different process had been the purest honey.



I N D E X.

F A B L E I.

The Red-breast and the Sparrow.

IMITATION may be pardonable, where emulation will be presumptuous.

F A B L E II.

The two Bees.

Moderation and intemperance reward and punish themselves.

F A B L E III.

The Diamond and the Glow-worm.

A strong point of light is as favourable to merit, as it is destructive to imposture.

F A B L E IV.

The Ostrich and the Pelican.

The pleasures of parental fondness make large amends for all its anxieties.

FABLE V.

The Hounds in Couples.

Mutual compliances are necessary to matrimonial happiness.

FABLE VI.

The Miser and the Magpye.

Men are seldom found to condemn themselves, otherwise than by the censure they pass upon their own faults in other people.

FABLE VII.

The Sensitive-Plant and the Thistle.

Both a mild disposition, and a vindictive temper, generally meet with suitable returns.

FABLE VIII.

Pythagoras and the Critic.

To estimate the works of others by the sole standard of our own conceptions is always presumptuous, and often ridiculous.

FABLE IX.

The Bear.

Religious opinions are by no means the proper objects of ridicule.

F A B L E X.

The Stork and the Crow.

We should never place the essence of religion in the mere observance of rites and ceremonies.

F A B L E X I.

Echo and the Owl.

The vain believe their imaginary perfections engross the attention of all mankind.

F A B L E X I I.

Prometheus.

The blessing of hope is better adapted to the state of mortals, than the gift of prescience.

F A B L E X I I I.

The Butterfly, the Snail, and the Bee.

Fops may boast of their extensive travels, but 'tis only a few discerning persons that make a proper use of them.

F A B L E X I V.

The Tuberosse and the Sun-flower.

To rest in second causes, without reference to the first, is both impious and absurd.

F A B L E X V.

The Magpye and the Raven.

The fop who prides himself upon a large acquaintance is but seldom capable of real friendship.

F A B L E X V I.

The Diamond and the Loadstone.

The greatest merit is often concealed under the most unpromising appearances.

F A B L E X V I I.

The Monster in the Sun.

The fault we many times impute to a character, is only to be found in the mind of the observer.

F A B L E X V I I I.

The discontented Bee.

The pleasures of life would be a balance for the pains, did we not increase the latter by our own perverseness.

F A B L E X I X.

The Beggar and his Dog.

'Tis misery to depend upon patrons, whose circumstances make their charity necessary at home.

F A B L E

F A B L E X X.

Love and Folly.

Folly has often too great an influence in the direction of our amours.

F A B L E X X I.

The Boy and the Butterfly.

An immoderate poursuit of pleasure is generally destructive of its object.

F A B L E X X I I.

The Sensitive Plant and the Palm - tree.

An excess of delicacy is to be considered rather as an infirmity than as a virtue.

F A B L E X X I I I.

The Elm-tree and the Vine.

People who pride themselves upon their independence, often slight oeconomy, the sole foundation of it.

F A B L E X X I V.

The Laurustinus and the Rose.

That friend is highly to be respected at all times, whose friendship is chiefly distinguished in adversity.

FABLE XXV.

*The Tentyrites and the
Ichneumon.*

We conquer many evils at first with facility, which being long neglected become insurmountable.

FABLE XXVI.

The Tulip and the Rose.

External beauty will often captivate; but 'tis internal merit that secures the conquest.

FABLE XXVII.

The Woodcock and the Mallard.

A voracious appetite, and a fondness for dainties, equally take off our attention from more material concerns.

FABLE XXVIII.

The Stars and the Sky-Rocket.

Pretenders to merit are always more vain than those who really possess it.

FABLE XXIX.

The Farmer and his three Enemies.

Humility extenuates any crime, of which hypocrisy and impudence are equal aggravations.

F A B L E X X X.

The Wolf and the Shepherd's Dog.

Common honesty is a better principle than what we often compliment with the name of heroism.

F A B L E X X X I.

The Mushroom and the Acorn.

The man who values himself too highly upon his birth, has seldom much claim to any other merit.

F A B L E X X X I I.

The Court of Death.

Intemperance is the great and original cause, that generally shortens human life.

F A B L E X X X I I I.

The Toad and the Gold-fish.

Beauty, joined with innocence, is universally respected; malice, added to deformity, is universally abhorred.

F A B L E X X X I V.

The King-fisher and the Sparrow.

Men's natural tempers will best direct them to their proper sphere in the pursuit of happiness.

FABLE XXXV.

The Sorceress.

There are numbers of people who would unhinge the world, to ease themselves of the smallest inconvenience.

FABLE XXXVI.

The Cameleon.

The different lights in which things appear to different judgments, recommend candour to the opinions of others, even at the time that we retain our own.

FABLE XXXVII.

The Travellers and the Money-bag.

We cannot reasonably expect those to bear a part in our ill-fortune, whom we never permitted to share in our prosperity.

FABLE XXXVIII.

The Lynx and the Mole.

We should use the talents that are allotted, and are most suitable to our species; instead of disparaging those faculties, that are as properly adapted to another.

FABLE XXXIX.

Genius, Virtue, and Reputation.

There are few things so irreparably lost, as reputation.

F A B L E X L.

The Hermit and the Bear.

The random zeal of inconsiderate friends is often as hurtful as the wrath of enemies.

F A B L E X L I.

The partial Judge.

The injuries we do , and those we suffer , are seldom weighed in the same scales.

F A B L E X L I I.

The Nobleman and his Son.

The means suggested by superstition to secure us from misfortune often bring it upon our heads.

F A B L E X L I I I.

The Farmer and his Dog.

The greater room there appears for resentment , the more careful should we be not to accuse an innocent person.

F A B L E X L I V.

The conceited Owl.

Schemes of ambition , without proper talents , always terminate in disgrace.

F A B L E X L V.

The Parrot.

Gravity, tho' sometimes the mien of wisdom, is often found to be the mask of ignorance.

F A B L E X L V I.

The litigious Cats.

The scales of judicature are seldom poised, till little or nothing remains in either.

F A B L E X L V I I.

Death and Cupid.

The young should not act as tho' they were exempt from Death; nor the old forget to guard against the fooleries of Love.

F A B L E X L V I I I.

The Spectacles.

Our opinions of things are altogether as various, as if each saw them thro' a different medium; our attachment to these opinions as fixed and firm, as if all saw them thro' the medium of truth.

F A B L E X L I X.

Jupiter's Lottery.

Folly, passing with men for wisdom, makes

each contented with his own share of understanding.

F A B L E L.

The Bee and the Fly.

The greatest genius with a vindictive temper is far surpassed in point of happiness by men of talents less considerable.

F A B L E L I.

The Sun and the Vapour.

Truth, though vanished, returns again; slander is never of a durable nature.

F A B L E L I I.

Momus.

It is hardly possible to deprive malevolence of every occasion for a cavil.

F A B L E L I I I.

The Trumpeter.

The fomentor of mischief is at least as culpable as he who puts it in execution.

F A B L E L I V.

The two Foxes.

We should ever guard against those vices, that are chiefly incident to our times of life: excess and riot, whilst we are

young; and egregious parsimony, as we grow in years.

FABLE LV.

The Ant and the Caterpillar.

Boys of no very promising appearance often become the greatest men.

FABLE LVI.

The Fighting Cocks and the Turkey.

Litigious persons seldom consider, before they go to law, whether the conquest will be worth the cost.

FABLE LVII.

The Peacock.

The parade and ceremony belonging to the great are often a restraint upon their freedom and activity.

FABLE LVIII.

The Bee and the Spider.

The candid reader will reap improvement, where the froward critic finds only matter of censure.

FINIS.

